King CHARLS II.

HIS

DECLARATION

To all His Loving SUBJECTS

OF THE

KINGDOME of *ENGLAND.*

Dated from his Court at *Breda* in *Holland*

The $\frac{2}{14}$ of *April* 1660.

And read in PARLIAMENT, *May* 1. 1660.

TOGETHER WITH

His Maieſties Letter

Of the ſame Date:

To his EXCELLENCE

The L. D. Gen. Monck,

To be communicated to the L. PRESIDENT

of the COUNCIL of STATE,

And to the Officers of the Army under his Command.

London, Printed for *John Playford* at his Shop in the Temple, 1660.

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The DECLARATION.

CHARLES by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the faith, &c. To all our loving Subjects of what degree or quality soever greeting. If the general distraction and confusion which is spread over the whole Kingdom, doth not awaken all men to a desire and longing that those wounds which have so many years together been kept bleeding, may be bound up, all we can say will be to no purpose; However, after this long silence, we have thought it our Duty, to declare how much we desire to contribute thereunto; And that as we can never give over hope in good time to obtain the Possession of that Right which God and Nature hath made our due, So we do make it our daily suit to the Divine Providence, that he will in Compassion to us and our Subjects, after so long misery and sufferings, remit and put us into a quiet and Peaceable Possession, of that our Right, with as little blood and dammage to our people as is possible; Nor do we desire more to enjoy what is ours, than that all our Subjects may enjoy what by Law is theirs, by a full and entire administration of Justice throughout the Land, and by extending our Mercy where it is wanting and deserved.

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And to the end That the fear of punishment may not engage any conscious to themselves of what is past, to a perseverance in Guilt for the future, by opposing the quiet and happiness of their Country, in the restoration both of King, Lars and People, to their just ancient and fundamental Rights: We do by these presents declare, That we do grant a full and general Pardon, which we are ready to pass under our great Seal of England, to all our Subjects of what degree or quality soever, who within forty dayes after the publication hereof, shall lay hold upon this our grace and favour, and shall by any publick act declare their doing so; And that they return to the Loyalty and Obedience of good Subjects, excepting only such Persons as shall hereafter be excepted by Parliament, Those only excepted: Let our Subjects how faulty soever, relye upon the word of a King, solemnly given by this present Declaration, That no Crime whatsoever committed against us or our Royal Father before the publication of this, shall ever rise in Judgement, or be brought in question against any of them, to the least indamagement either in their Lives Liberties or Estates, or (as far forth as lies in our power) so much as to the prejudice of their Reputation, by any reproach or term of distinction from the rest of our best Subjects. We Desiring and Ordaining that henceforward all Notes of discord, separation and difference of Parties, be utterly abolished among all our Subjects, whom we invite and conjure to a perfect Union among themselves under our Protection, for the settlement of our just Rights and theirs in a free Parliament; by which upon the word of a King we will be advised.

And because the Passion and uncharitableness of the times have produced several opinions in Religion, by which men are engaged in parties and animosities against each other which when they shall hereafter unite in a freedom of conversation, will be composed or better understood: We

do declare a liberty to tender Conſciences, and that no man ſhall be diſquieted or called in queſtion for differences of opinion in matters of Religion, which do not diſturb the Peace of the Kingdom; And that we ſhall be ready to conſent to ſuch an Act of Parliament, as upon mature Deliberation ſhall be offered to us, for the full granting that indulgence. And becauſe in the continued diſtractions of ſo many years, and ſo many great Revolutions, many Grants and Purchaſes of Eſtates have been made too and by many Officers and Soldiers, and others who are now poſſeſſed of the ſame, and who may be liable to Actions at Law upon ſeveral Titles, We are likewiſe willing that all ſuch differences, and all things relating to ſuch Grants Sales and Purchaſes, ſhal be determined in Parliament, which can beſt provide for the juſt ſatisfacton of all men who are concerned.

And we do further declare, That we will be ready to conſent to any Act or Acts of Parliament to the purpoſes aforeſaid, and for the full ſatisfaction of all arrears due to the Officers and Soulditers of the Army, under the Command of General MONCK: And that they ſhall be received into our Service upon as good pay & conditions as they now enjoy. Given under our ſigne Manuel and priby ſignet at our Court at Breda this fourteenth day of April 1660. In the twelfeth year of our Reign.

Received the firſt of *May*,
1660.

Charles R

CHARLES R.

Trusty and Well beloved, we greet you well. It cannot be believed, but that we have been, are, and ever must be as Solicitous as we can, by all indevours, to improve the Affections of our good Subjects at home, and to procure the Assistance of our Friends and Allyes abroad, for the Recovery of that Right, Guilt by the [illegible] and of which we have been so long dispossessed by such force, and with those circumstances, as we do not desire to agravate by any sharp expressions, but rather wish, That the Memory of what is passed, may be buried to the World, that we have more indevoured to prepare, and to improve the affections of our Subjects at home, for our Reloration, then to procure assistance from abroad, to invade either of our Kingdoms, is as manifest to the World: And we cannot give a better evidence that we are still of the same mind, then in this Conjuncure, when common Reason must satisfie all Men, that we cannot bewithout Assistance from abroad, We choose rather to send to you, who have it in your own power, to prevent that Ruine and Desolation which War would bring upon the Nation, and to make the whole Kingdome owe the Peace, Happiness, Security and Glory

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it shall enjoy, to your Virtue; and to acknowledge that your Armies have complyed with their Obligations, for which they were first raised; for the Preservation of the Protestant Religion, the Honor and Dignity of the King, the Privileges of Parliament, the Liberty and Property of the Subject, and the fundamental Laws of this Land; and that you have vindicated that Trust, which others most perfidiously abused and betrayed: How much we desire and resolve to contribute to those good Ends, will appear to you by our enclosed *Declaration*, which we desire you to cause to be published for the Information and Satisfaction of all good Subjects, who do not desire a further effusion of precious Christian bloud, but to have their peace & security founded upon that which can onely support it; a unity of affections amongst our selves, an equal Administration of Justice to Men, restoring Parliaments to a full capacity of providing for all that is amiss, and the Laws of the Land to their due course. You have been your selves a witness of so many Revolutions, and have had so much experience, how far an power and authority that is onely assumed by passion and apperite, and not supported by justice, is from providing for the happiness and peace of the people, or from receiving any obedience from them, without which no Government can provide for them, that you may very reasonably beleive, that God hath not been well pleased with the attempts that have been made, since he hath usually encreased the Confusion by giving all the success that hath been desired, and brought that to pass without Effect, which the Designers have proposed, as the best means to settle and compose the Nation; and therefore we cannot but hope and beleive, that you will concur with us in the Remedy we have applyed, which to humane understanding is onely proper for the Ills we all groan under; and that you will make your selves the Blessed Instruments to bring this Blessing of Peace and Reconciliation upon King and People, it being the usual Method in which Divine providence delighteth it self, to use and sanctifie those very means which ill men designe, for the satisfaction of private and particular Ends and Ambition, and other wicked purposes, to wholsome and publick Ends, and to Establish that Good which is most contrary to the Designers; which is the greatest Manifestation of Gods peculiar Kindnesse to a Nation, that can be given in this world. How far we resolve to preserve your Interests, and reward your services, we refer to our *Declaration*; and we hope God will inspire you to perform your Duty to us, and to your Native Countrey, whose happiness cannot be separated from each other.

We

We have have entrusted our welbeloved Servant Sir *John Greenville* one of the Gentlemen of our Bed-chamber, to deliver this unto you, and to give us an Accompt of your Reception of it, and to desire you in our Name, that it may be published. And so We bid you farewell.

Given at our Court at *Breda* this 1. of *April* 1660. In the twelfth year of our Reign.

Received 1. *May* 1660.

To our trusty and welbeloved General MONCK, *to be by him communicated to the President and Council of state, and to the Officers of the Armies under his Command.*

FINIS.